THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

THE TENTH SESSION OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL UNDER THE CONSTITUTION OF INDIA.

Saturday, the 29th June 1957.

The House met in the Council Chamber, Fort St. George, at three of the clock, the Deputy Chairman (SRI A. M. ALLAPICHAI) in the Chair.

[*Note.*—An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.]

I.—CONDOLENCE RESOLUTION ON THE DEATH OF SRI T. PRAKASAM, A FORMER MEMBER OF THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AND CHIEF MINISTER OF THE COMPOSITE MADRAS STATE.

DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : It is with deep regret that I have to announce to the hon. Members the death of Sri T. Prakasam, former Chief Minister of the composite Madras State, at 7-37 p.m. on the 20th May 1957, at the Osmania Hospital, Hyderabad, at the age of 86.

Born on 23rd August 1869 in the Guntur district, he lost his father at the early age of 12 and so, his education was looked after by his mother. He took his M.A. Degree at the young age of 19 and had to wait for two years to gain admission to the Madras Law College. He joined the Bar in due course and after more than five years of lucrative practice and participation in municipal politics in Rajahmundry, he sailed for England in October, 1903 and was called to the Bar in 1906. He returned to India in 1907 as a Barrister and for the next fourteen years he had a lucrative practice at Madras. He edited 'Law Times' and twice went to England to argue before the Privy Council

Later, he came under the influence of Mahatma Gandhi and joined the Indian National Congress and he threw himself heart and soul into the national struggle for freedom and fought many an epic battle. He was the Founder-Editor of 'Swarajya', an English Daily, which he conducted with great journalistic distinction and which became the byword for free, frank and fearless espousal of national cause. He was a Member of the Central Legislative Assembly from 1926 to 1930. He was imprisoned more than once. His display of personal courage at the time of the boycott of the Simon Commission is a glorious chapter in the history of Indian national struggle for Independence.

Sri Prakasam joined the Rajaji Cabinet as Revenue Minister in 1936. As Revenue Minister, he headed the Zamindari Inquiry Committee whose 18-volume report was the basis for the legislation for the abolition of the zamindari system in 1948.

After World War II, he formed the first Congress Ministry in the composite Madras State and became Chief Minister on the 29th April 1946. One of the important programmes of his Ministry was the Firka Development Scheme. the fore-runner of the Community Development Projects. After eleven months in office, he resigned on the 23rd March 1947. He was a Member of the Madras Legislative Council for a short period during 1952.

After the formation of the Andhra State, he became the first Chief Minister of the Andhra State which post he resigned on the 6th November 1954.

Sri Prakasam was a tireless, political writer and he wrote a very frank autobiography when he was Chief Minister of the composite Madras State entitled 'Najivitha Yatra' (My Life's Journey). In his death, India has lost one of her most outstanding sons, patriots and leaders.

I now move the Condolence Resolution, namely :—

" This House places on record its deep sense of sorrow at the demise of Sri T. Prakasam, a former Member of the Madras Legislative Council and Chief Minister of the composite Madras State, and conveys its profound sympathy to the members of his bereaved family ".

* THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I rise to associate the Government with the sentiments which you have just now expressed. We mourn the demise of not merely the former Member of the Legislative Council, not even the former Chief Minister of the composite State of Madras, but of one of India's noblest sons. Forsaking a very brilliant career at the Bar, Sri Prakasam joined the national movement for liberation. It may be truly said of him that he scorned delight and lived laborious days. He participated in every one of the national movements for liberation and we are happy that he lived to see the achievement of freedom in his own lifetime. Mr. Prakasam combined in himself talent with virtue. As Revenue Minister in the first Congress Government, as Chief Minister of the composite Madras State and subsequently of the Andhra State, he acquitted himself with credit and honour. He had a flair for original thinking. It was he that initiated the Firka Development Scheme, the fore-runner of the present Community Development Projects.

In his loss, the country has suffered much and I am quite sure that the people of India and the younger generation in particular will honour his memory by trying to emulate his example.

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* DR. A. LAKSHMANASWAMI MUDALIAR: Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I wish to associate myself and those Members sitting on this side of the House with the sentiments expressed by you and the Hon. the Leader of the House. Mr. Prakasam's name is a household word with all of us. For fifty years he dominated the scene in the political life of the country and of this State. I well remember, as a young man passing through Broadway, looking up the editorials and the bold headlines of 'Swarajya' that was printed in those days. I also well remember the many talks I had with the editor of that paper at that time who was Mr. Panikkar, now Ambassador in France. Mr. Prakasam combined in himself many virtues; bold in his utterance, indefatigable in his labours, always precise in whatever he did whether he was in the Opposition or in the Government. No man can stand up to his stature and acquit himself as well as he did. Perhaps many of those of the recent generations may not have known to the full extent what he did for us and what he had to suffer. You, Sir, have referred to one of the incidents which is engraved in the minds of all of us when he stood in Broadway or near about facing the bullet possibilities and yet he was trying to discharge his duty by the country.

As a Member of the Legislature, he was indefatigable in his work. I well remember, as Chief Minister of the composite Madras State he used to sit hour after hour in this House. I believe my hon. Friend the Deputy Leader of the Opposition would remember the remark made of him that it was something extraordinary that as though the youngest Member of the Cabinet, even with none by his side, he should sit there all the time hearing the monotonous speeches that we were trying to make, with your permission. I then saw him as the Leader of the Opposition for a short while. That was a time which we all regret because he should have played a different role in those circumstances. But as Leader of the Opposition also, he never wavered from whatever he had to say. I remember once he spoke about the reorganization of the States and when he had finished speaking for an hour and a half, he had just come to the earlier parts of the great Indian Mutiny. Then, the Chairman had to suggest to him that if he continued in that manner, the whole of the evening might have to be spent.

He was thorough in whatever he did. He was remarkably free from prejudice which is a great thing indeed. He was worshipped by those on that side of our present territorial limits, man, woman and child in the Andhra Pradesh, as nobody else has been worshipped. He was full of years and had earned his honours from the people of that place. But still such a noble leader has left us with a void which cannot be filled easily. I feel that an expression of sincere sorrow is due from all of us for the noble work he has done. May his soul rest in peace.

SRI V. CHAKKARAI CHETTY : Mr. Deputy Chairman, I cannot help rising on this occasion to speak, because it will be a grave neglect of my duty to the late Prakasam Garu, if I do not rise to speak now. Sir, I do not think that there is any one here in this House whose memory carries him back to the century when I came to know Prakasam Garu. It was in connection with the visit of the great Bengal orator and politician Sri Bepin Chandra Pal, who came to Madras to deliver a series of lectures. It was he that first popularised the idea that India was a free and independent country apart from the British Empire. At that time, most of our politicians of the Congress group were all deep-dyed Moderates. They were afraid to associate themselves with Sri Bepin Chandra Pal, because he was not *persona grata* with the British Government of those days. I could not get any one to come and preside over the function. I was the Secretary of the small group that invited Sri Bepin Chandra Pal to Madras. The late Sri G. Subramania Ayyar of the 'Hindu' consented to preside. Then came Prakasam Garu. There was a mammoth gathering in the beach. At that time, it was not known as the 'Tilak Ghat'. In those days it was known only as the 'Beach Meeting.' He came and presided. From that time onwards I came to know him as the Editor of the 'Swarajya' and in various other capacities. He was always helpful and gave advice. He was not supposed to be a fire-brand, although many people thought that he was the extremist of the extreme type. He was in all things extremely moderate. He was an extremist in moderation and in wisdom. It is no doubt a great loss to us, especially to Andhra Desh, that he passed away at this time. I would not call this the critical juncture in the history of our country. But still the presence of such a great leader would be a great inspiration not only to his own people in Andhra Desh but also to others in other parts of our country and in the Dravida country, which we are now trying to form, and which, I hope, will soon materialize into a potent reality and form part and parcel of the great Indian Union. In those days I knew his two sons. But I have lost sight of them in the last one or two years. They went away, I suppose, to the Andhra country. As I have not gone to the Andhra country, I have lost sight of them. But I wish to convey to the members of the bereaved family our most heartfelt condolences and our appreciation of the great and splendid work that he did for the building up of our country and for raising the fabric of our Indian Union to its present status. He will be known in the future history of our country as one of the architects of our Federal India. I hope, Sir, that we will always remember him in that way just as people in the United States of America remember Jackson and Jefferson as the architects of the United States—a federal Union of the States of America.

With these words, I wish once again to express my feeling of sorrow—personal sorrow—at the departure of Prakasam Garu, and hope that the members of the bereaved family will receive some

kind of consolation from the fact that there is this solid appreciation of his great personality in our Council and in other departments of our life.

DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : I request hon. Members to stand in silence for a few minutes and pass the Resolution unanimously.

The Resolution was carried *nem. con.*, all the Members standing in silence for a few minutes.

DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : As a mark of respect to the late Sri T. Prakasam, the House will now adjourn and meet again at 4 p.m.

The House then adjourned.

(The House re-assembled at 4 p.m.).

II.—SWEARING-IN OF NEW MEMBER.

Sri S. N. Venugopal was sworn in.

III.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Question No. 3.

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : I request that this question may be taken up a little later.

DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Yes.

Teaching of subjects in Higher Forms of Secondary Schools

* 4 *Q.*—SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state with reference to the answers to Legislative Council Question No. 65 on the supplementaries thereon given on 28th September 1956—

(*a*) whether the Government have received any representations from the managements and teachers about the difficulties felt in the enforcement of the order that teachers handling Higher Forms of Secondary Schools could teach only the subjects studied by them in their degree course ; and

(*b*) if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken thereon?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : (*a*) Representations have been made to the Director of Public Instruction in the matter.

(*b*) The Government consider that it may not be desirable to modify the existing procedure. Inspecting Officers are, however, competent to grant temporary exemptions in deserving cases.

SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY : Is the Hon. Minister aware of the fact that this procedure was brought anew only last year or so?